Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a surface crosslinked superabsorbent-containing composite, the method comprising:

(a) introducing particles of coating material into a flowing gas stream wherein the particles of coating material are cellulosic materials and the cellulosic materials are solid particles, porous particles, or an agglomeration of particles and wherein the cellulosic particles of coating material are granules, pulverulents, powders, or spheres;

(b) introducing at least one particle of at least one superabsorbent material into the flowing gas stream, the flowing gas stream moving the superabsorbent material and the coating material through a zone where an association agent and a crosslinking reagent are applied to the superabsorbent material and the coating material wherein the association agent is selected from the group consisting of water, volatile organic solvent, aqueous solution of film-forming material, synthetic adhesive and mixtures thereof and wherein the crosslinking reagent is selected from the group consisting of ethyleneglycol diglycidyl ether, aluminum acetate, aluminum sulfate, glycerol, ethylene carbonate, quaternary amine, ~~polyhydric alcohol~~, glycidyl compound, alkylene carbonates, silyl esters, tetramethoxy silane, and mixtures thereof; and

(c) maintaining the superabsorbent material and the coating material in the flowing gas stream until the superabsorbent material is covered with at least a first layer of the coating material.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the flowing gas stream comprises air.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising (d) heating the flowing gas stream to an elevated temperature sufficient to effect crosslinking on at least a portion of the surface of the superabsorbent-containing composite.

16.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the association agent and the crosslinking reagent are simultaneously applied.